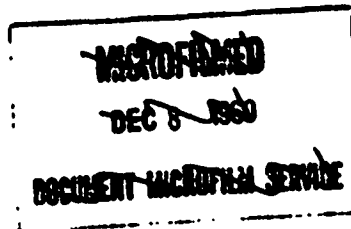
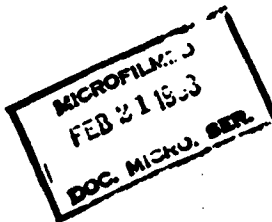


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26th January 1949.

PALESTINE/LEVANT STATES.

Political.

Haj Amin al-HUSAYNI and Arab

Nationalist Movements.

1. INTRODUCTION.

Haj Amin ~~al-HUSAYNI~~, ignoring the appointment of a rival Mufti of JERUSALEM, has continued by agitation and intrigue to press the Arab States for a stiffening in their attitude towards the Palestine problem. In the autumn of 1948 he appeared to be making some headway; the influence of his enemy King ABDULLAH had waned and his chief military opponent Fawzi QANUWJI had been ignominiously defeated. But by the end of the year it was generally plain to the Arabs, Governments and populations alike, that no die-hard nationalistic policy would now save Palestine. Haj Amin found himself obliged to tone down his propaganda and there are signs at present of his having adopted a more realistic attitude.

2. POSSIBLE RECOGNITION OF KING ABDULLAH'S CLAIMS.

(a) A well-placed source reports that at the time of the Jewish offensive in the Negev (mid-December 1948), King FARUK had a confidential talk

with/.....

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[ ]

with Haj Amin. The King stated that the Egyptian army was offering resistance simply for reasons of prestige; and that if 'Iraq could not be induced to send reinforcements defeat was certain. Egypt might feel impelled to withdraw from the Arab League. Haj Amin was principally perturbed lest the Egyptians should, in desperation, invoke the 1936 treaty and call on Great Britain for help.

(b) At the end of December Haj Amin delegated Kamel HADDAD, Arab Higher Executive representative in BEIRUT to convey a message to Riad SOLH (the Lebanese Prime Minister) for transmission to the Regent of 'Iraq. The message stated that the ~~ARAB HIGHER EXECUTIVE~~ and the Mufti himself were ready to recognise King ABDALLAH as ruler of the Arab parts of Palestine, provided that Transjordan and 'Iraq both went to the assistance of the Egyptian army. SOLH promised to convey the message.

(c) Kamel HADDAD was also to request the Lebanese and Syrian governments to boycott the UNITED NATIONS' Conciliation Commission, then due to begin making arrangements for an armistice between the Arabs and the Jews.

3. THE NAZARAT CONFERENCE.

(a) Through Dr. Mustafa ~~HUSSEINI~~ or CAIRO, Haj Amin has been in touch with Suleiman ~~TUQN~~ Mayor/...

(2)

Mayor of NABLUS, who presided over a conference of Palestinian Arabs at NABLUS on 28th December. This conference had approved the idea of the amalgamation of Palestine with Transjordan as a first step to a firm union of the Arab countries, but had called for the prosecution of the war against the Jews. H. Amin is reported to have reached a measure of agreement with TULAH over the general tenor of the Conference's decision.

4. PROPOSAL IN THE LEVANT STATES

About 10th January, Saif GHURI, one of the Mufti's chief assistants, reached BAKUT from CAIRO. The object of his visit was to organise in the LEBANON and in DAMASCUS small meetings of leading Palestinians loyal to the Mufti. These meetings would prepare appeals to the Arab States calling for a resumption of the struggle in Palestine and stressing the need to consider the views of the ARAB HIGHER EXECUTIVE in any settlement of the Palestine question.

5. H. AMIN AND THE MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD

Rafiq A. B. BIDI, an official of the Palestine Arab G.O. "Government", and a member of the IKHWAN AL MUSLIMIN (Moslem Brotherhood) went to BAKUT on 10th January to investigate whether the Brotherhood's influence had increased or diminished in the Levant States since the recent murder of the

Egyptian/.....

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Egyptian Prime Minister, Mahmud Fathi AL-NOKRAISHI  
Pasha. According to L.B.BIDI, this murder has  
had the effect of raising H. J. Amin's stature in  
the imagination of the Egyptian public, who ascribe  
the "coup" to his instigation.

(b) The A.R.B. HIGHER EXECUTIVE is  
reported to be placing great hopes in the Muslim  
Brotherhood for the furthering of its plans.

(c) L.B.BIDI organised a conference  
of leading Palestinians, who met in AMMAN on January  
17th to pass resolutions echoing the general tone of  
H. J. Amin's propaganda.

6. THE QUMIYIN (Popular Nationalists).

(a) The A.R.B. HIGHER EXECUTIVE in CAIRO  
has been perturbed at the recent activities in the  
Levant States of the HIZB AL-ARAB AL-QUMI (National  
Call Party), the Lebanese fraction of the inter-Arab  
QUMIYIN.

(b) This Party recently sent invitations  
to a number of political parties in the Arab countries  
to review in common the current problems of the Arab  
world. Favourable replies were received from the  
following:

- |       |   |            |
|-------|---|------------|
| (i)   | HIZB AL-ARAB AL-QUMI (National Party).                | } of       |
| (ii)  | HIZB AL-BAYT AL-ARABI (Party<br>of Arab Renaissance). |            |
| (iii) | HIZB AL-SHA'AB (Popular Party).                       | } of Iraq. |
| (iv)  | HIZB AL-ISHTIQAQ (Independence<br>Party) of Iraq.     |            |

(c)/.....

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(c) Representatives of these parties attended a preliminary meeting at BAHUT on 3rd January 1949. Taki-ed-Din SOLH, leader of the National Coll, suggested the formation of a Union of parties to bring concord to the Arab world. The idea in general met with approval, but the participation of the Syrian National Party, held responsible for the mismanagement of their country's politics and economy, was rejected. A sub-committee set up to compose this difference reported after a short meeting that no attempt should be made to institute a union of Parties such as contemplated until progressive nationalist parties had been formed in Egypt and Transjordan, and until the Lebanese QJALYIN movement should have grown in strength.

7. NEW PRO-ABDULLAH PARTY.

Palestinian Arabs in Transjordan have recently founded a new party named HIZB AL-RAI AL-HUR (Arab Liberal Party), which favours King ABDULLAH. It is led by ABDULL-KHILIL, a former magistrate of HAIFA, who has been active lately against the Mufti and by Wadih SALAH, a Christian lawyer of Ramallah. The Mufti's strong-arm men in BAHUT and DAMASCUS are stated to be planning to assassinate AL-KHILIL and SALAH should they visit the Levant States.

8. FUNDS FROM TUNISIA.

Habib TALAH, a representative of the

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Tunisian JRAA (Liberal) Party recently handed to H. J. Amin a donation to the value of £12,000 sterling.

9. PROG. 7. HD. IN TURKEY AND IRAN.

H. J. Amin is planning to send his henchman ~~Shu'ayb~~ on prop. g. and. tour of Turkey and Iran. SHU'AYB is a Palestinian nationalist who has recently completed a similar mission among governmental circles of Iraq and the Levant States. He is to probe the extent of popular feeling against the Jews in Turkey and Iran, with a view to obtaining support for H. J. Amin should the Arab States give up the struggle.

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HUSA/NI, H. J. AMIN  
10/11/66

Subj: The JRAA and Arab Nationalist Movement

The attached information, dated January, comes from Arab sources either belonging to or in touch with the JRAA's entourage. As such, they are liable to exaggerate the JRAA's importance.

UCL 10/11/66  
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